The Crystals - Singles



The Crystals were originally 5 New York girls – later on only 4
Barbara Alston**,** Dolores "Dee Dee" Kenniebrew**,** Mary Thomas**,** Patricia "Patsy" Wright and Myrna Girard**.**
Myrna was later replaced by Dolores "La La" Brooks (who still are touring with two new members as The Crystals) – Mary left when she was married (The Crystals went on as a quartet). Later on both joined forces in The Butterflys.





0955 The Crystals *There's no other (Like my baby)/*
Oh yeah, maybe baby *Philles 100 (US)* *1961*

The first couple of Philles singles are pop songs "supervision" by Phil Spector. They sound more like Jack Nitzsche's productions with strings. Leon could be the piano player on track 1. No piano on 2.





0956 The Crystals *Uptown/*
What a nice way to turn seventeen *Philles 102 (US)* *1962*

No piano on "Uptown" – piano intro and outtro on "What a…" It could be Leon, but a maybe only.

The Crystals He hit me/No one ever tells you Philles Records 105 (US) 1962

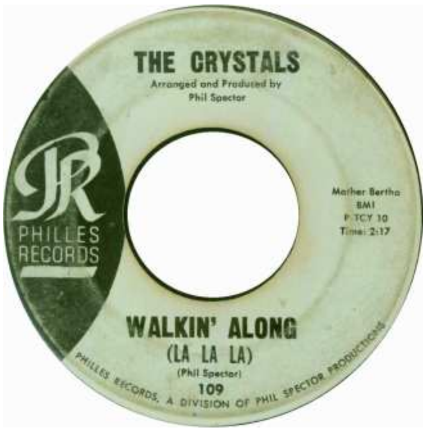
The single was withdrawn and is very hard and expensive to find. "He hit me and it felt like a kiss" was too much to stomach in those days. Don't think Leon was involved in that one.



1235 The Crystals *He's a rebel (Darlene Love & The Blossoms)//*
I love you Eddie - blue/black *Philles 106 (US)* *1962*
1423 The Crystals *He's a rebel (Darlene Love & The Blossoms)/*
I love you Eddie - yellow/red *Philles 106 (US)* *1962*

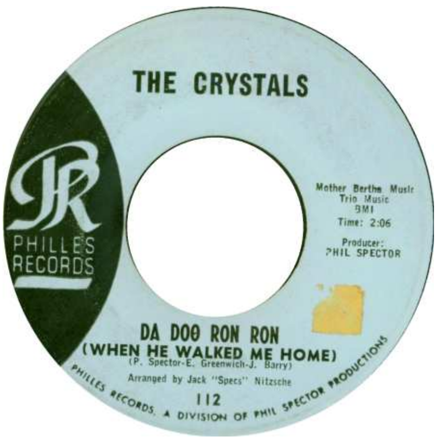
Nice hammering piano on "Hes a rebel" with an arrangement that gives way to a xylophone? Is it Leon? It could be, I think it is. Recorded at the Gold Star Studio and in fact it's Darlene Love singing lead with her backing group The Blossoms. No piano on the ballad "I love you Eddie".





The Crystals *He's sure the boy I love/Walkin' Along (La la la)* *Philles Records 109 (US)*

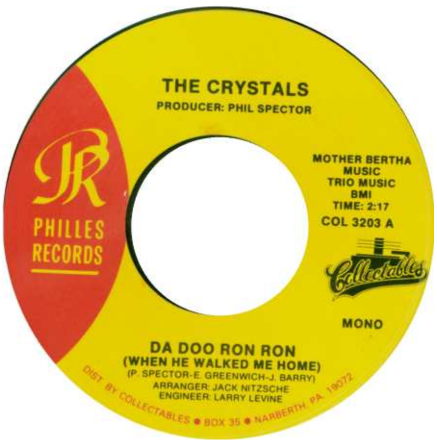
Track 1 is in fact Darlene love singing lead with her backing group The Blossoms. The drowned piano could be anyone.
Side 2 is a primarily guitar instrumental with "u-ba-uh"'s galore from the backup-singers. No piano anywhere. One of the usual Phil Spector b-side instrumental-fillers.





0893 The Crystals *Da Doo Ron Ron/Git' It* *Philles 112 (US)* *1963*

"Da doo ron ron" is a classic, catchy tune with Wall of Sound and Leon at the piano! All the way…
"Git' it" is a guitar instrumental not even 1.40 long! No piano



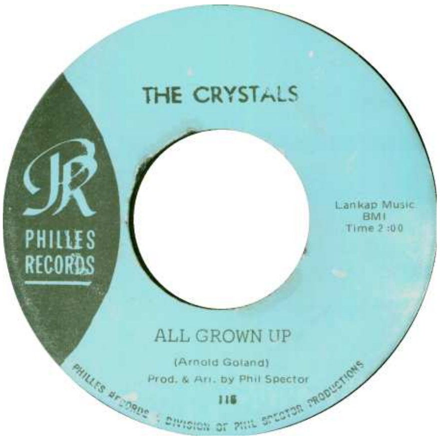


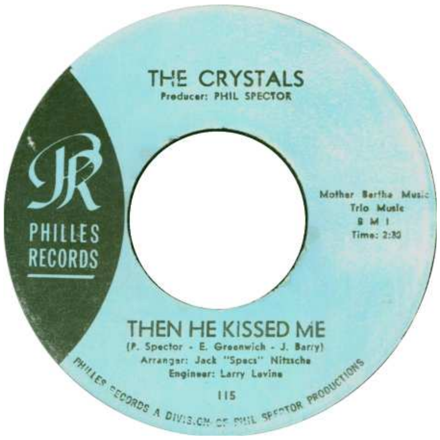
Reissue

1168 The Crystals *Da Doo Ron Ron/All Grown Up* *Philles COL 3203 (US)*

The vocals are the main thing here. And Leon is all over side 1.
Piano all the way in the background on side 2.

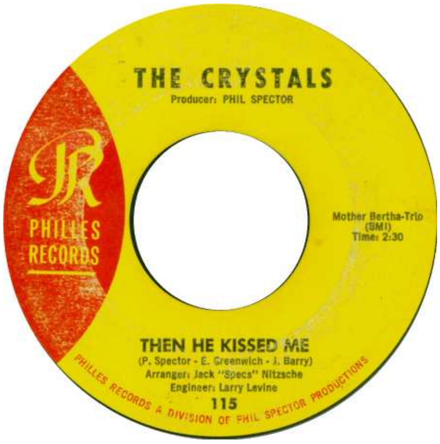
On Philles 122 is a totally different recording of "All Grown Up".





1495 The Crystals *All grown up/Then he kissed me* *Philles 115 (US)* *1963*

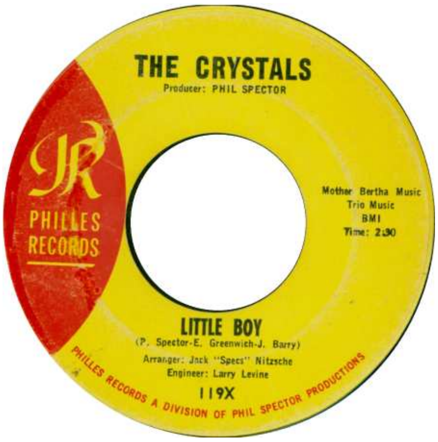
Leon on piano on both. On this version of "All grown up" he is all over!
On "Then he kissed me" buried in the mix, but getting to the end you can hear him.

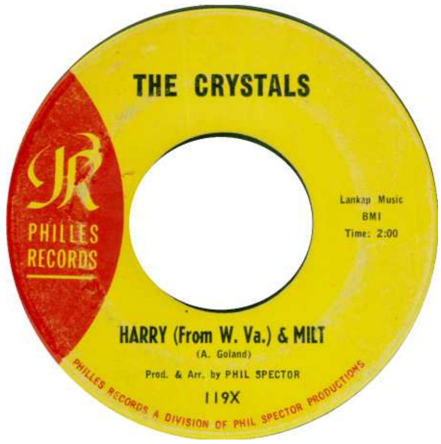




1019 The Crystals *Then He Kissed Me/*
Brother Julius *Philles Records 115 (US) 1963*

Leon piano on both. On "Then he kissed me" buried in the mix, but getting to the end you can hear him.
"Brother Julius" is an instrumental

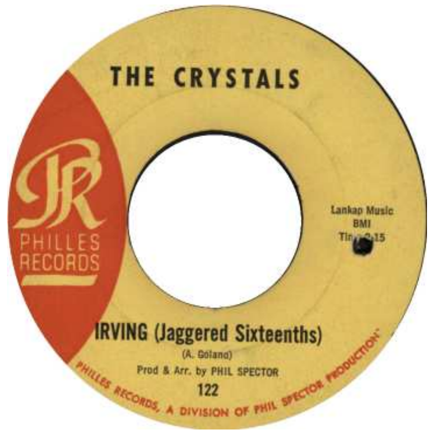




1456 The Crystals *Little Boy/Harry (From W.Va.) & Milt* *Philles 119X* *1963*

Side 1 arr. by Jack "Specs" Nitzsche and it's a typical Wall of Sound side with no audible piano. Side 2 is an instrumental - very jazzy - with lots of piano. Not Leon-like, but there is something about the attack on the keys – especially at the end – that seems to signal Leon. But it remains a maybe.





1495 The Crystals *All grown up/Irving (Jaggered Sixteenths) Philles 122 (US) 1964*

Side 1 is a guitar-driven track, with no really audible Leon, he's buried in the Wall of Sound, but then at 1.01 a nice little piano "solo" pops up for a few seconds! Pure Leon. Side 1 is a completely different recording than "All Grown Up" on Philles 115 (1963), that has a lot of Leon piano and vocals in the foreground.

Side 2 is a fast jazzy instrumental with piano as the main instrument. I wish I could say it's Leon, but it does not sound like anything he has done elsewhere. The Crystals are nowhere to hear on 2.